

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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OFFICIAL DISPATCH

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DISPATCH NO. HUL-W-370

~~SECRET~~  
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief of Station, Lincoln

DATE MAY 21 1954

FROM : Chief, WH

SUBJECT { GENERAL Anti-Communism in Mexico  
SPECIFIC Frente Popular Anti-Comunista de Mexico

RYBAT/PBSUCCESS

REF: LINC 2659

As requested in reference, the State Department Policy Guide dated 5 January 1954 is attached. Your attention is also drawn to HUL-W-164 concerning subject.

Attachment - 1

J. C. KING  
CWH

WH/JH:pw  
17 May 1954  
Distribution:  
2 - Lincoln  
3 - Washington

(Coordinating officer)

J. D. ESTERLINE

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CLASSIFICATION

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State Department Policy Information  
Statement for USIA (ARA-73)  
January 5, 1954

FORTHCOMING ANTI-COMMUNIST MEETING

1. Recent reports from Mexico indicate that the Frente Popular Anti-Comunista de Mexico (Popular Anti-Communist Front of Mexico) is planning a hemisphere-wide meeting to be held in Mexico City from February 5-7 for the purpose of unifying hemisphere support against Communist infiltration. The report claims that the conference will be financially supported by the Mexican Government and that Senators Wiley and McCarthy will attend the meeting.

2. This group has been known to the Department and the Embassy in Mexico City since 1949. On occasion it has cooperated with the USIA in the distribution of non-attributed anti-Communist material.

3. Its leaders are Jorge PRIETO LAURENS and Florencio AVILA Sanchez. Information made available to the Department states that Prieto Laurens, president of the Front, is considered to be [ ] Avila, the Secretary of Public Relations for the Front, called on Secretary Dulles and Assistant Secretary Cabot in April, 1953. At that time he outlined the plans for a proposed anti-Communist conference to be held in Mexico City in November. He did not ask for monetary support (although he showed himself receptive to getting some funds) but urged that an unofficial delegation from the United States attend the conference. He was informed that the question of any official U. S. participation would have to be studied.

4. In July, 1953, [ ] of the Mexican Embassy called in person at the Department to discuss Avila. He stated that disquieting information had reached him concerning Avila's behavior in the United States. He described some "fantastic schemes" which Avila had been "discussing with various persons in the United States". He emphasized that Avila had no official status whatsoever, that the official passport he had, had been declared invalid and added that "if the United States Immigration Authorities should catch up with him (Avila), the Mexicans would have no objection." He left a note with the Department stating that it had come to his attention that Avila, who was then in the United States on an expired official passport, had been attempting to solicit funds for a conference to be held in Mexico City. The Mexican note stated that the Embassy was disturbed by this activity since it feared that people in the United States might be duped into supporting this organization especially since Avila identified himself as a Special Ambassador and Personal Representative of the President of Mexico, which identification, the Embassy stated, was absolutely false.

5. In October, when information reached the Department that the Front was planning to hold an anti-Communist meeting in Mexico City on November 20, the Department requested information from our Embassy in Mexico City concerning the conference and recommendations as to possible U. S. participation. The Embassy reply was basically negative. The Embassy had no positive information indicating that any of the other American republics were planning to participate officially in the meeting or were planning to lend financial assistance. The Embassy also pointed out that a meeting of this type would have little chance of being successful unless it were well organized by a capable and responsible organization. The Embassy also questioned the over-all effectiveness of a meeting of this kind.

6. In answer to a letter from Senator Wiley, who had been contacted directly by Prieto Laurens, the Department informed Senator Wiley that the United States Government would not participate in the conference which the Front had planned in November. Our Embassy previously had been instructed to inform Prieto Laurens of this position.

7. Our private position is that the Front and its leaders have shown themselves to be highly unreliable and unpredictable and as a consequence the United States Government does not wish to become officially identified with the group or officially participate in its proposed meeting. Although present indications do not indicate that the proposed meeting, if held, will be effective, should it result in the activation of private anti-Communist groups in the hemisphere, this would be useful and would contribute to the attainment of U. S. foreign policy objectives in the area.

8. Our public position is that we are, of course, interested in genuine efforts to combat Communist intervention, as evidenced by our proposal that this subject be considered by all of the American republics at the forthcoming Tenth Inter-American Conference. (A State Department Policy Information Statement for USIA will be issued shortly on this U. S. proposal.) Since a private organization is calling the meeting, it should be made clear that any U. S. citizens who participate do so as private citizens. If the conference is held and private anti-Communist organizations in the other American republics are strengthened or activated, it will further U. S. foreign policy objectives to lend encouragement to such movements, although care should be taken to identify the United States with them since their effectiveness might thereby be lessened.

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